

REMARKS

New claims 21 and 22 are added herein. Claims 1-22 are pending and under consideration. Claims 1-9 are allowed. Claims 13-20 are objected to.

Claims 10-12 are rejected under Matsumoto. Independent claim 10 recites a print head to eject ink towards a paper and a frame forming a hole to pass the ejected ink not received by the paper. As previously noted, the ejected ink is ejected towards the paper according to claim 10.

In the Advisory Action (Continuation of Item 11), the Examiner relies upon the ink that is ejected into the absorbing member 8 during the nozzle clog operation and maintains that during this operation "the ink is not ejected toward the paper." Thus, the Examiner appears to agree that Matsumoto does not disclose that the ejected ink is ejected towards the paper.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

New claim 21 recites that the ink passes through the hole when the paper partially covers the hole. However, FIG. 12 of Matsumoto illustrates that the papers P1, P2 do not partially cover the hole when the ink passes through the hole.

New claim 22 is patentable over the cited reference at least due to its dependency from claim 10.

In accordance with the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all outstanding objections and rejections have been overcome and/or rendered moot. And further, that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

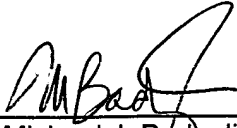
Serial No. 10/642,689

If there are any underpayments or overpayments of fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge and/or credit the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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